

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,197

Examiner

Prabodh M. Dharja

Applicant(s)

LIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05-01-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 06-11-07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Art Unit: 2629

1. **Status:** please all the replies and correspondence should be addressed to examiner's new art unit 2629. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted 05-02-2007 under amendments and new claims; which have been placed of record in the file. Claims 18-22 are pending in this office action and claims 1-17 are cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 06-11-2007 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

The applicant has agreed to do examiner's amendments per examiner's extensive interview with applicant's representative on 06-20-2007 to claim 18, to overcome prior art rejection. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-17 and added new claims 18-22 to overcome prior art rejection. The new independent claim 18 with the examiner amendment and newly added independent claim 20; applicant's arguments, see Remark, filed 05-02-07, with respect to claims 18 and 20 regarding "a flexible touch pad unit mounted flexibly on said peripheral wall, said touch pad unit generating contact signals in response to operation thereof a control circuit unit separate from said touch pad unit and separate from said main board, disposed in said casing, and coupled electrically to said main board electrically coupling said control circuit unit to said main board An electrical coupling unit disposed in said casing and having a first end coupled to said touch pad unit and a second end coupled to said control circuit unit, said electrical coupling unit

Art Unit: 2629

extending through said peripheral wall to be connected with said touch pad unit, said electrical coupling unit permitting transmission of the contact signals generated by the touch pad unit to said control circuit unit, and a transmission interface” after extensive search in PG PUB, prior art and further consideration does overcome prior art rejection; which puts the application number 10,682,197 in condition for allowance.

3. The amendments canceling claims 1-17 and adding new claims 18-22 filed 05-02-2007 does not introduce any new matter into the disclosure. The added material is supported by the original disclosure.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal telephone interview with applicant's representative Anastasia Heffner on 06-20-2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

Claim 18 amended as following.

On page 1, Claim 18, Line 1, delete first word "An" and add words "A palmheld".

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 18-22 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-17 and added new claims 18-22. Independent Claim 18 is amended per examiner's extensive interview with applicant's representative to overcome prior art rejection. Applicant has agreed to amend the independent claim 18 per examiner's amendment per interview discussion. Applicant's arguments filed on 05-02-2007 are convincing. As argued by applicant in remarks under claim rejection page 4, paragraphs 3-5 and page 5, paragraphs 1-3; the prior art of Faggin et al. (US 5,920,310) in view of Caldwell et al. (US 2005/0020062 A1) fails to recite or disclose the uniquely distinct features of the independent claims limitations below with all the other limitations recited in independent claims:

a flexible touch pad unit mounted flexibly on said peripheral wall, said touch pad unit generating contact signals in response to operation thereof a control circuit unit separate from said touch pad unit and separate from said main board, disposed in said casing, and coupled electrically to said main board electrically coupling said control circuit until to said main board An electrical coupling unit disposed in said casing and having a first end coupled to said touch pad unit and a second end coupled to said control circuit unit, said electrical coupling unit extending through said peripheral wall to be connected

Art Unit: 2629

with said touch pad unit, said electrical coupling unit permitting transmission of the contact signals generated by the touch pad unit to said control circuit unit, and a transmission interface.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M Dharia whose telephone number is 571-272-7668. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.

8. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2629

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Prabodh Dharja

Partial Signatory Authority

AU2629

06-16-2007



BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600